1.(Previously presented) A sound system for a motor vehicle comprising a control unit, a first input unit to operate the system, a display unit, at least one unit to generate source data that includes sound data, an amplifier unit to amplify the source data, at least one loudspeaker, a bus to link the input, display, source data and amplifier units to assure transmission of source data and to control the input, display, source data and amplifier units that are distributed over the vehicle, and at least one system unit, different from the control unit and having an associated memory in which a functional scope of this unit is stored, such that this functional scope can be transmitted over the bus, and the transmitted functional scope can be drawn upon at least partially to form the functional scope of the entire system, where the sound system further comprises a second input unit where the first and second input units have a memory in which is stored a priority value for each of the input units, that the first and second input units conduct their priority value to units connected on the bus, that the units of the system, other than the control unit, together with their associated memories form the transmitted functional scope in dependence on their priority value and conduct the formed and transmitted functional scope, via the bus, to the first and second input units with an appropriate priority value, and that the first or second input unit with this priority value draws upon the transmitted functional scopes, formed in accordance with their priority value, to form its functional scope.

2.(Previously Presented) The sound system of claim 1, where at least one of the first or second input units comprises a keyboard through which the priority value can be entered.

3.(Previously Presented) The sound system of claim 1, where the control unit automatically

assigns a specific priority value to each of the first and second input units.

4.(Canceled)

5.(Previously Presented) The sound system of claim 1, where the control unit, one of the first or second input units, and the display unit are linked with one another in such a way that the operating menus needed to operate the system are displayed by the display unit in accordance with the functional scope of one of the first or second input units, and the system is operated via inputs to the first or second input unit, using the displays in the display unit.

6.(Canceled)

7.(Previously Presented) The sound system of claim 1, where the source data comprises multimedia data.

8.(Previously Presented) The sound system of claim 7, where turning on the sound system or an individual unit triggers the formation of the functional scopes of the first and second input units from the functional scopes of the individual units.

9.(Canceled)

10.(Previously Presented) The sound system of claim 7, where the formation of the functional scopes of the input units from the functional scopes of the individual units can be invoked by means

of an input unit.

11.(Canceled)

12.(Cancelled)

13.(Cancelled)

14.(Cancelled)

15.(Currently Amended) A method of specifying functional scope of a first sound system input unit, which cooperates with at least a second sound system input unit to control multimedia data generating units that communicate with the first and second sound system input units over a system bus, the method comprising the steps of:

sending a control signal containing a priority value from the first sound system input unit to the multimedia data generating units over the system bus;

receiving, from each of the multimedia data generating units, functional scope data indicative of the authority the first sound system input unit has over the associated multimedia data generating unit; and

configuring a display unit of the first sound system input unit to display control information that is indicative of the functional scope that the first sound system input unit has been assigned,

~~The method of claim 12,~~ where the steps of sending, receiving and configuring are performed in the event the sound system is turned on, additional multimedia data generating units are added or

removed from the unit, or the priority value is changed.

16.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, where a control unit supplies data to the first sound system input unit and to the display unit in correspondence with the functional scope of the first sound system input unit, and the first sound system input unit receives command inputs regarding the functional scope of the input unit including command inputs associated with volume, bass, treble, fade and balance.

17.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, where a control unit supplies control data to the first sound system input unit and to the display unit in correspondence with the functional scope of the first sound system input unit, and the first sound system input unit receives command inputs regarding the functional scope of the input unit including command inputs associated with the functions of play, track jump, repeat, fast forward, rewind, tuning, band change, silencing, activating/deactivating traffic messages, starting the seek function, and activating/deactivating RDS functions.

18-21.(Cancelled)

22.(Previously Presented) The sound system of claim 30, where the first input unit transmits the first priority value onto the system bus and the plurality of sound system generating components respond to the first input unit with their functional scope data that is associated with the first priority value.

23.(Previously Presented) The sound system of claim 22, where the second input unit transmits the second priority value onto the system bus and the plurality of sound system generating components respond to the second input unit with their functional scope data associated with the second priority value.

24.(Previously Presented) The sound system of claim 30, where the first unit comprises a memory device that stores the first priority code and stores functional scope data provided by each of the plurality of sound system generating components and associated with the first priority value.

25-27.(Cancelled).

28.(Previously Presented) The sound system of claim 32, where the plurality of input units comprises a first input unit that transmits a first priority value onto the system bus and the plurality of audio generating components respond to the first input unit with their functional scope data that is associated with the first priority value.

29.(Previously Presented) The sound system of claim 28, where the plurality of input units comprises a second input unit that is accessible to occupants of a rear seat of a motor vehicle, where the second input unit transmits a second priority value onto the system bus and the plurality of audio generating components respond to the second input unit with their functional scope data associated with the second priority value.

30.(Previously Presented) A vehicle sound system that provides an audio signal to a speaker

system, comprising:

a first input unit that receives a first priority value indicative of a first scope of authority that the first input unit has been assigned over the vehicle sound system;

a second input unit that receives a second priority value indicative of a second scope of authority the second input unit has been assigned over the vehicle sound system;

a system bus; and

a plurality of sound system generating components each capable of communicating with the first and second input units over the system bus and being selectively controlled by the first and second input units via the system bus,

where the first input unit comprises an input interface that allows a user to specify the first priority value.

31.(Previously Presented) A vehicle sound system that provides an audio signal to a speaker system, comprising:

a first input unit that receives a first priority value indicative of a first scope of authority that the first input unit has been assigned over the vehicle sound system, where the first input unit comprises a display that presents information indicative of the scope of functions that may be controlled from the first input unit;

a second input unit that receives a second priority value indicative of a second scope of authority the second input unit has been assigned over the vehicle sound system;

a system bus; and

a plurality of sound system generating components each capable of communicating with the first and second input units over the system bus and being selectively controlled by the first and

second input units via the system bus.

32.(Previously Presented) A motor vehicle multimedia sound system that provides audio signals to a speaker, the sound system comprising:

a plurality of input units that each receive a uniquely associated priority value indicative of a scope of authority each of the input units has been assigned over the motor vehicle multimedia sound system;

a system bus; and

a plurality of audio generating components each capable of communicating with the plurality of input units over the system bus and being selectively controlled by the plurality of input units,

where the plurality of input units comprises a first input unit that is accessible to occupants of a front seat of a motor vehicle, and the first input unit includes an input interface that allows a user to specify a first priority value associated with the first input unit.

33.(Previously Presented) A motor vehicle multimedia sound system that provides audio signals to a speaker, the sound system comprising:

a plurality of input units that each receive a uniquely associated priority value indicative of a scope of authority each of the input units has been assigned over the motor vehicle multimedia sound system;

a system bus; and

a plurality of audio generating components each capable of communicating with the plurality of input units over the system bus and being selectively controlled by the plurality of input units,

where the plurality of input units comprises a first input unit including a display that presents

information indicative of the scope of functions that may be controlled from the first input unit.